

New Atheism: The dilemmas of taking on God

Speaker: [Dr. Stuart McAnulla](#), University of Leeds

Over the last ten years the 'New Atheism' has made provocative contributions to public discussions of religion. Best-selling books by authors such as Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens and Sam Harris have argued that religion has a malign impact on world affairs, provoking violent conflict, war and social division.

Moreover, they contend that advances in science, textual analysis and other disciplines have produced overwhelming evidence against the claims of Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

In this seminar we will review some of the key arguments of the New Atheist movement, and reflect upon why they have attracted both support and vociferous condemnation.

In particular we will look at the political implications of New Atheism in areas such as education, security and gender. We will consider the argument that authors such as Dawkins should be considered 'secular fundamentalists', and examine the dilemmas faced by atheists who seek to challenge the most influential types of monotheistic religion.

Date: Thursday 25 June

Time: 5.30 – 7.30pm

For full details of fees and how to register please visit the Spring into Summer webpage at <http://www.llc.leeds.ac.uk/sis>

To head straight to the event bookings webpage, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/new-atheism-the-dilemmas-of-taking-on-god-tickets-16248817651>